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Seed and Plant Introduction and Distribution,

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SLENDER WHEAT-GRASS (*Agropyron tenerum*).

Slender wheat-grass is a native of this country and is grown to some extent throughout all the States west of the Mississippi River and is quite important in the Rocky Mountain and Western States. It is a hardy perennial grass resembling the western wheat-grass and belonging to the same genus. This grass has been grown under cultivation for only a very few years and mostly in the Dakotas and the Canadian Northwest, where it has attained some importance and promises to become an important grass in the future.

Seeding.—The methods of culture practiced in the sections where this grass is grown are practically the same as those employed in growing *Bromus inermis*. Seed is sown in the spring as early as possible, usually during the month of April, on ground that has been well prepared by plowing and thoroughly settled with a disk or common harrow. In some cases the ground is plowed the fall before. This is a good practice, since it allows more time for settling. Seed is usually sown with a nurse crop, which may be wheat, oats, barley, or spelt, and put on at the rate of about 20 pounds per acre. If sown with wheat, barley, or spelt, it is usually mixed with the grain and drilled in. If sown with oats, it is usually sown broadcast after the oats. Whether sown broadcast or with a press drill, care should be taken not to cover too deeply; otherwise the stand will not be satisfactory. When sown in the spring with a nurse crop the grass does not yield hay or pasture the first year, but yields heavily the next season. On account of the cold winters in the sections where it is grown it is never seeded in the autumn.

Uses and value.—Slender wheat-grass is better adapted to use as a hay grass than *Bromus inermis*, but is not nearly so valuable for pasture. It makes hay of good quality and also gives a fairly heavy yield. It is thought by most farmers to be rather better for horses than brome-grass hay, but less valuable for other classes of stock. The grass affords considerable grazing, but as it does not propagate by rootstocks it does not make as close a turf as brome-grass, and consequently does not stand stamping or grazing as well. As a hay grass it has an advantage over brome-grass, inasmuch as it can lie at least one year longer in the meadow.

Use in rotation.—Slender wheat-grass is becoming quite popular, especially in the Canadian Northwest, for use in crop rotation. For this purpose it is considered by many farmers to be of more value than brome-grass from the fact that it can be plowed up without difficulty and the land put immediately into some other crop. It is commonly followed by wheat and may be broken up either in the spring or fall when wheat is to be sown after it.

Seed.—This grass produces seed quite abundantly, and it is easily harvested and cleaned. It is a common practice to handle it in the same manner as ordinary small grain, using more care in thrashing to prevent it from being blown over in the straw. It does not yield as much seed per acre as brome-grass, but is easier to handle.

